

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present application are shown below in clean form whether or not an amendment has been made. Please refer to the attached sheet showing a mark-up version of the amendments to the claims.

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B1
A1
1. (Amended) A porous composition comprising:
up to about 100% by weight silica wherein the silica comprises up to about 100% by weight cristobalite; and
up to about 60% by weight alumina; wherein the composition has a density of at least about 3.5 pounds per cubic foot, at least about 50% of the exposed surface area is silicon dioxide, and said surface has been modified by a chemical reaction to increase the hydrophilicity or hydrophobicity.

Please cancel Claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.

3. The composition of claim 1, further comprising an additional metal oxide.
4. The composition of claim 1, further comprising tantalum oxide or zirconium oxide.
5. The composition of claim 1, further comprising carbon fiber.
6. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a drug.
7. The composition of claim 1, further comprising silica gel.
8. The composition of claim 1, wherein the density is at least about 8 pounds per cubic foot (128 kg/m³).

9. The composition of claim 1, wherein the density is at least about 12 pounds per cubic foot (192 kg/m³).

10. The composition of claim 1, wherein the density is at least about 36 pounds per cubic foot (577 kg/m³).

11. The composition of claim 1, wherein the density is at least about 64 pounds per cubic foot (1025 kg/m³).

12. The composition of claim 1, wherein the mean pore diameter of the composition is up to about 5 microns.

13. The composition of claim 1, wherein the mean pore diameter of the composition is at least about 5 microns.

14. The composition of claim 1, wherein the mean pore diameter of the composition is at least about 50 microns.

15. The composition of claim 1, wherein the mean pore diameter of the composition is at least about 100 microns.

16. The composition of claim 1, wherein the mean pore diameter of the composition is about 0.1 micron and about 1 micron.

17. The composition of claim 1, wherein the mean pore diameter of the composition is about 5 microns to about 10 microns.

18. The composition of claim 1, wherein the mean pore diameter of the composition is about 20 microns to about 50 microns.